

has admitted the defendant into conjugal society or embraces, after he or she knew of the criminal fact, or that the said plaintiff (if the husband) allowed of his wife's prostitution, or exposed her to lewd company, whereby she became ensnared to the crime aforesaid, it shall be a good defence and a perpetual bar against the said suit.

9. It shall and may be lawful for the courts aforesaid, after hearing any cause commenced in virtue of this act, to determine the same as to law and justice shall appertain, by either dismissing the petition or libel, or sentencing and decreeing a divorce and separation from bed and board or from the bonds of matrimony, or that the marriage is null and void, or that the wife shall have alimony agreeably to the prayer thereof; and such court shall have power to decree alimony to the wife in the case of general divorce upon the petition of the wife; and after a sentence nullifying or dissolving the marriage, all and every the duties, rights and claims of the parties, in right of said marriage, shall cease and determine, and the complainant or innocent person shall be at liberty to marry again as if he or she had never been married: *Provided always*, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to affect or render illegitimate any child or children born of the body of the wife during the coverture.

What decree the court may make.

Innocent party may marry again.

No decree to render the children illegitimate.

10. The husband, against whom alimony or separate maintenance may be decreed, shall give good and sufficient security in open court, to be approved by the court, for the faithful performance of the same, and in case of failure shall stand committed until the order or decree of the court is complied with; or the court may direct execution to issue, as in cases at law, for the money thus decreed and a writ of *venire* to the jury to lay off and allot the real or personal estate decreed to the wife.

Proceedings against the husband when alimony is allowed.

11. When the court shall decree a divorce from bed and board, the wife so divorced shall have capacity to acquire, retain and dispose of all such property as may thereafter be procured by her own industry or may accrue to her by descent, devise, gift, bequest, or in any other manner, and the said property shall not be liable to the power, dominion, control, or debts of her husband, but, on her death, without a disposition by her, shall be transmissible in the same manner as though she were unmarried; and the wife may sue and be sued without joining her husband, and may claim redress for and be made liable upon contracts and injuries thereafter made and done, as though she were a *feme sole*.

In case of divorce from bed and board, the wife shall have all the property she may thereafter acquire and may sue and be sued alone.

12. When any married woman shall file her petition in any of the superior courts of law of this State, praying that alimony may be decreed to her and that such property as she may thereafter acquire may be also secured to her, the judges of the said courts may, if they think proper, decree that the petitioner may sue and be sued in her own name, without joining the name of her husband,

The superior courts of law, may, on petition of a married woman, decree that the property she may afterwards acquire may be

9. 1814, c. 869, s. 4.

10. 1814, c. 869, s. 11.

11. 1819, c. 1007.

12. 1828, c. 44, s. 4.—1829, c. 23.